

**Listing of Claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A catalyst composition for the isomerization of n-paraffin ~~which comprises~~ comprising a  $\beta$ -zeolite ~~having been synthesized according to a dry gel process and contains cerium, the  $\beta$ -zeolite being characterized in that it~~ wherein said catalyst composition is synthesized according to a dry gel process and has an average particle diameter of 0.01 ~~[[~]]~~ to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and ~~the proportion of wherein~~ the cerium is present in an amount providing an atomic ratio Ce/Si of the cerium atoms to the silicon atoms in the  $\beta$ -zeolite is within the range of 0.001 ~~[[~]]~~ to 0.2 in terms of the atomic ratio of the silicon atom in the  $\beta$ -zeolite to the cerium atom, i.e. [Ce]/[Si].

2. (currently amended) A process for isomerizing n-paraffin ~~which comprises~~ comprising bringing n-paraffin into contact with the catalyst composition as set forth in claim 1.

3. (new) A process for isomerizing n-paraffin as set forth in claim 2, wherein said catalyst composition is pressure-molded into a shaped body.

4. (new) A process for isomerizing n-paraffin as set forth in claim 3, wherein said catalyst composition is pressure-molded together with a binder.